

**Amendments to the Specification**

✓ Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

At the repeater node 16, the C-band signals from the first end node 12 enter the L-band COMSEP 42 through its bi-directional port 50. This COMSEP 42 has an L-transmission filter 56 and therefore, as shown, the C-band signals reflect off the L-band filter to the output port 52 54 with minimal insertion loss.

B<sup>1</sup>  
L-band filters for this application are available with 0.9dB for the worst case insertion loss under all operating conditions and with 0.3-0.5dB typical performance. The loss is calculated based on a 0.7 dB transmission loss and an approximate 0.2 dB loss for two connectors. The C-band signals are amplified in the optical amplifier 46 and then directed to the input port 53 of the C-band COMSEP 44. The C-band signals are propagated from this repeater node 16 to the next node in the system in this manner.